Loan for Agriculture Sector

†271. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently decided to enhance the amount of loan provided for agriculture to the farmers by financial institutions to give relief to them;

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the total amount of loan fixed by Government for agriculture sector; and

(c) whether Government have made any assessment of loan amount required for the agriculture sector and if so, the details of that amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) the announcement on agriculture credit made by the Government on 18th June, 2004 envisages doubling the flow of agriculture credit in three years and relief to farmers in distress and in arrears. In order to achieve a 30% increase over the estimated flow of credit in the previous year, the total ground level credit flow to agriculture from all lending institutions for the year 2004-05 has been projected at around Rs. 1,04,500 crore as indicated below:

Commercial Banks	–	Rs. 57,000 crore.
Regional Rural Banks	–	Rs.8,500 crore
Cooperative Banks	–	Rs. 39,000 crore

(c) As per the Tenth Five Year projections, total credit disbursement during the Plan is estimated at Rs. 7,36,750 crore.

Revenue Deficit

†272. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have set a target to completely do away with the revenue deficit in the budget by the year, 2008;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.